17 October 1980

H.E. The Ambassador,
Turkish Embassy,
43 Belgrave Square,
London SW1x 8PA

Excellency,

I should be most grateful if you would arrange for the enclosed letter to be delivered to His Excellency General Kenan Evren at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

المجلس الإسلامي الأوروبي
Islamic Council of Europe

17th October 1980

His Excellency
General Kenan Evren
Ankara - Turkey.

Excellency,

We send you our sincere greetings on the auspicious occasion of the Great Bairam.

I would like to bring to your attention that the news that the Turkish Government has re-arrested Dr. Necmettin Erbaken and members of the National Salvation Party has caused deep anguish and concern to the Muslims of the world. We appeal to Your Excellency, a distinguished Turkish Muslim, to order the release of the leaders of the Salvation Party. The leaders of the Salvation Party were only exercising their democratic right, a right to which Your Excellency's Government is committed.

If Your Excellency finds it difficult to accede to our suggestion for the release of Dr Erbaken and his colleagues, then we suggest that:

i) Their trial should be open and in a civil court.

ii) The Islamic Council should be allowed to send a team of eminent lawyers to defend Dr Erbaken and his colleagues.

iii) We should also be allowed to send a team of observers to attend the trial.

We hope that Your Excellency will sympathetically consider our submission.

Assuring Your Excellency of our highest esteem,

Yours faithfully,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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